



March 8, 2022

TO: Transportation Committee
SUBJECT: SUPPORT SB4 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Transportation Committee,

We here at Sustainable Westport would like to express our support for SB4. The Town of Westport has a goal to be Net Zero by 2050. This bill would be instrumental in aligning the proper incentives to help encourage our residents, businesses, and the municipality to make better choices in our journey towards electrifying transportation. Specifically, we are most interested in:

1. Expanding the CHEAPR rebate program to include municipal fleets. We have already started transitioning to EVs in our Police Department and have created a policy to ensure that all Town departments consider EVs when adding or replacing a vehicle. Additional rebates could help speed up this transition by reducing the higher up-front purchase price which can often be a barrier.
2. Increasing the cap on vehicle prices eligible for the electric vehicle rebate. Our town already has the highest per-capita EV ownership in the state. With many new models coming to market now, we'd like to ensure that a wider range of them would be eligible for the rebate.
3. Matching grants that support electric school bus expansion. Our school bus contract is coming up for renewal next year, so this would be timely. While we know the total cost of ownership of electric buses is lower in the long run, a matching grant will help support the higher initial purchase price of the buses.

Thank you for your support of SB4.

Sincerely,

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